body has been created in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Hon'ble Court has ordered that all the State Governments/Union Territories shall account for and pay the amount collected with effect from 30.10.2002 to the said *ad-hoc* body, which shall ensure that all the funds recovered on behalf of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) and which are presently lying with various officials of the State Governments are transferred to the bank account(s) to be operated by this body. As on 31.07.2006, about Rs. 926 crore has been received by the *ad-hoc* body on behalf on CAMPA from various State/ Union Territory Governments.

Deforestation of Himalayas

1245. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a biodiversity and conservation expert has warned that rapid deforestation in parts of Himalayas could lead to the extinction of hundreds of plants, dozens of birds and animal species;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the forest cover on the Indian side of the mountain range would fall from 84.9 per cent in 2000 to 52.8 per cent by 2100 if nothing is done to reduce unchecked development and land clearing for farming; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check the deforestation of Himalayas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No specific information has come to the notice of the Ministry. In general rapid deforestation causes loss of habitat, which leads to extinction of fauna & flora. Forest Survey of India, an organization under the Ministry of Enviroment & Forests, Government of India carries out the assessment of the forest cover of the country on a biennial basis. FSI has not analysed forest cover in the mountain range of Indian side separately. As per State of Forest Report 2003, the forest cover in the Himalayan States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Prades, Uttaranchal, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh is 131,366 Sq. Km. which is 31.11% of the geographical area of these States.

The Central Government and State Governments are taking the following measures to check deforestation in Himalayas:

(i) **Administrative measures:** Patrolling of forest area, Network of Checkposts, Mechanism of Transit Permits for movement of forest produce, Control and regulation of saw mills, Restrictions on movement of timber in North-Eastern Region as per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court

(ii) **Legal measures:** Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Environment Protection Act, 1986 and the rules, guidelines thereof.

(iii) **Management measures:** Working of forests according to approved Working Plans, involvement of local people in protection and managment.

(iv) **Financial measures:** Financial assistance to the States/Union Territories under Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Externally Aided Projects.

(v) A network of protected areas has been established. (National) Parks, Sanctuaries, Project tiger areas, Project Elephant areas, Bioshpere reserves etc.)

Promotion of IFS officers

1246. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of guidelines for promotion of Indian Forest Service officer, issued by his Ministry December, 2005 to various Chief Secretaries of States.

(b) whether it is a fact that the Department of Personnel and Training is reported to have advised the Chief Secretaries of all States not to follow the guidelines issued by his Ministry for promotion of IFS officers and if so, the reasons therefor?